

**Friday 14th February 2014
Annual General Meeting
St James' Church, 7.30 pm**

New Committee members welcome; we are particularly looking for someone who would be keen to take charge of Sales.

The business part of the meeting will be followed by presentation of the Tony Jerram award by Mrs Barbara Jerram. Four people are in the running for the award. Many thanks to the ten members who took the time to nominate someone.

There will then be tea and biscuits, followed by talks by various Committee members.



**Friday 14th March 2014
An Evening with Henry Sandon
St James' Church, 7.30 pm
Members free, non-members £2.50**

We are delighted that Henry Sandon, a notable authority on Royal Worcester porcelain and a veteran of Antiques Roadshow, has agreed to come and talk to us. During the first part of the evening, Henry will talk about Peter Stewart's pottery finds. After tea and coffee, Henry will offer free advice, time permitting, to visitors who may bring along an item of porcelain or pottery if they wish (limited to one per person).

- Friday 20th June 2014 – Midsummer Walk, walk from Willersey to Saintbury, meet at Willersey Village Hall (car park at back), 7 pm
- Saturday 26th July 2014 – Badsey Flower Show
- September 2014 – Exhibition in connection with the centenary of the outbreak of World War I during the Festival of Churches event (6th-21st), St James Church

Membership Fees 2014

Membership fees due, £5 per person. Please forward to Tony Wood, Treasurer, or pay at the AGM, or via Paypal at <http://www.badsey.net/bsp/subs.htm>.

Committee Members

Maureen Spinks Chairman	The Willows, 8A High Street, Badsey	01386 831154 history@badsey.net
Valerie Magan Secretary	21 Sands Lane, Badsey	01386 832100
Tony Wood Treasurer	16 Badsey Fields Lane, Badsey	01386 834768 treasurer@badsey.net
Will Dallimore Committee Member	30 Horsebridge Avenue, Badsey	01386 831012 editor@badsey.org.uk
Ian Gibson Committee Member	83 Bretforton Road, Badsey	01386 834468
Tom Locke Committee Member	22 Pitchers Hill, Wickhamford	01386 831073
Jane Neill Committee Member	Fircroft, Main Street, Aldington	01386 830301
Richard Phillips Committee Member	4 High Street, Badsey	01386 831112 editor@badsey.net
Neil Thould Committee Member	1 High Street, Badsey	01386 830160
Gill Woods Committee Member	42 Stone Pippin Orchard, Badsey	01386 839505



**THE
BADSEY
SOCIETY**

**Newsletter
No 47
January 2014**

A happy new year to all our members. And what a good start it has been to 2014 – we've got a home! As you know, for the last few years we have been looking for a place in which to store our growing archive and museum collection. We have recently been offered the opportunity to rent a room at Badsey Remembrance Hall which was previously occupied by the Phoenix Theatre Group. This is wonderful news, as it means that our collection can now be housed under one roof.

Many thanks to Barbara Jerram who, for several years, has generously allowed us to store a number of the boxes in her attic. Also thanks to the long-suffering Committee members and their families who can now reclaim storage space in their own homes. The Committee recently paid a site visit to assess what we need in the way of decoration, shelving, etc; see overleaf for how you can help.



Round-Up of Events October to December 2014

Friday 1st November, "Vicars, Virginia and Wickhamford" – Ian Gibson gave a fascinating talk about his ancestors and links with the Washington family of Wickhamford and America. When Ian moved to Badsey in 1997, little did he realise that he had some family connections with the area. Researches into his family history have revealed that he is related to Penelope Washington who lived with her mother, Elizabeth, and step-father, Samuel Sandys, at Wickhamford Manor for a number of years. Penelope's father, Colonel Henry Washington, was the first cousin of Ian's 7xgreat-grandfather, Lawrence Washington, whose daughter, Mary, married Edward Gibson. Ian also shares a common ancestor with George Washington, the first President of the USA. This was the Reverend Lawrence Washington (Ian's 8xgreat-grandfather and George's 2xgreat-grandfather) who, after the end of the Civil War, lost his living as a clergyman, due to his close royalist connections. His two eldest sons, John and Lawrence, both ended their days in America, John being the great-grandfather of the future 1st President. Put another way, Ian is a third cousin six-times-removed of George Washington! George Washington must have many such descendants, but how many people can chart the lineage?

Friday 29th November, Family History Evening

A large number of members packed into the back room of The Wheatsheaf to seek advice about their family history. Badsey Society Committee members, aided by experts, Peter Stewart and Trevor Hockenhill, were on hand to help to try and solve thorny problems.

As well as our own Badsey websites, there was the opportunity to view subscription websites such as Find My Past, Ancestry and the British Newspaper Archive. See overleaf for reports of some happy customers at the event.



Badsey Archive and Museum Project



Can you help? Calling all would-be decorators and handymen/women

As you saw on the front cover, we are now the proud renters of a room at the Remembrance Hall. But it's badly in need of a lick of paint. We'd also like to put electricity sockets in the room and put up shelving and racking. If you feel you can assist, please phone or email our Archives Manager, Jane Neill, on 830301, badsoc@gmx.co.uk.

Unwanted Furniture – Do you have an unwanted desk, table, chairs, etc which might be useful in our new room? If so, please contact Jane Neill. They may just fit! We have limited space, so please don't be disappointed if we have to turn down any generous offer.

First World War Memories Sought – Play your part in documenting history

August 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. Whatever your views on the war, without doubt, it was a pivotal point, not just in Badsey's history, but the whole nation's. The war reached out and touched almost everyone's life in some way or other. Life changed forever; nothing was ever the same again. Men enlisted, or were called up, being sent to fight in places that many had never heard of. The families left behind had to carry on with their lives as best they could.

A hundred years ago, the majority of the men who went off to war from Badsey were from the village or nearby. Today, Badsey is a melting-pot, with residents whose forebears have come from all over the country and, indeed the world. We all have very different stories to tell of our family history and would love to hear about one of your ancestors at the time of the Great War, wherever he/she lived. It does not need to be the story of someone who went off to battle. Just as interesting would be tales of people on the home front, those in the medical profession or those who did not fight, for whatever reason.

Articles should not exceed 1000 words; photographs may be used as illustrations. Please submit your article either via email to history@badsey.net or send to Maureen Spinks, The Willows, 8A High Street, Badsey, WR11 7EW by 24th August 2014. All articles will be included in the Festival of Churches exhibition in September and subsequently deposited in the Badsey Society Archive. The best entry will be included in the November issue of Community News.

Private Johann Rosskopf

At the Family History Evening, Chris Smith asked if we knew much about the German prisoner of war who died in 1918. Private Johann Rosskopf was 33 when he died, just three days after the end of the war, succumbing to the flu which was sweeping through the country. The Parish Magazine of December 1918 informs us that he was buried in Badsey churchyard and that German soldiers from the Manor House Camp attended (in 1963 his body was transferred to a new cemetery at Cannock Chase). It also said that he came from Bavaria and left a widow and two children.

Private Rosskopf's death certificate reveals he was a member of the 1st Bavarian Reserve Division. Ancestry has a number of German army records and there were one or two Johann Rosskopfs of the right age. The help of Shirley Tutton (whose mother was German) was enlisted to decode the Gothic script. Shirley spent a fascinating afternoon translating the documents, but came to the conclusion that this was not Johann Rosskopf who was in Badsey. Chris Smith plans to talk to someone in the German partnership to see if there is anyone who can assist with research of military archives in Germany. We hope to find out more about Private Rosskopf for the church exhibition later in the year.



Happy Campers at Family History Evening

Murderers in the family, artists in caravans, ancestors dying of parrot flu – you name it, we had it all. Tim and Carol Pinner, pictured left, were delighted to find out more about the artist who painted their plate, whilst Sarah Bent (right) and Shirley Tutton found out more about the exploits of their murderous ancestors.



John Flexman, Painter on Porcelain

Tim Pinner was quick off the mark after our last Newsletter in which we invited our members to send in queries in advance of the Family History evening. Many years ago, he and Carol bought a plate with the following inscription on the back: John Flexman, The Caravan, Castle Morton, Worcs. Tim said that they would love to know more about John Flexman. We're delighted that we were able to help. John Flexman (1895-1958) was born in London but was living in Spetchley by 1911. His occupation was given as "Apprentice to painting on china, Royal Porcelain Works". Tim is hoping to attend a valuation day at Worcester Porcelain Museum to find out more about the artist.

A murderer in the family

In our July 2013 issue, we reported on Neil Thould's dodgy duck-stealing ancestor. That's nothing on the murderous exploits of the ancestors of two of our members! At the British Newspaper Archive stand where Valerie Magan was in charge, Sarah Bent found a story about a 49-year-old farmer, Robert Harvey Eaton, from Kersoe, near Pershore, who in October 1935 attended Worcester Quarter Sessions accused of a very serious assault on a local scissor grinder who lived in a tent in Kersoe Lane near Elmley Castle. Mr Eaton was eventually discharged. Sarah was delighted to take away a detailed copy of the court report as she wished to show it to a member of her family who knew about the incident.

Meanwhile, Shirley Tutton writes:

We went along to the family history evening with a view to finding out more about one of Alan's relatives. According to family stories, Harry Blaker had been found guilty of murdering his step-grandfather, Frederick Ridges, with whom he lived, after an argument in which he pushed the old man who fell and hit his head on the grate. Alan's mother remembered meeting her uncle in Southampton when he was released from prison in the 1970s but, apart from that, we knew nothing except the facts of his birth and death.

As we knew where he fitted in to the family tree, we enlisted the help of Valerie Magan and the British Newspaper Archive, as we also knew the case had been reported in The Times, where Harry was described as mentally deficient. She typed in his name, and immediately the search returned two results. The first was from the Dundee Courier of March 10 1913, and was entitled GRAVE CHARGE AGAINST YOUTH, which reported that he broke into the house and attacked the old man in his sleep with a hammer. The second piece was from the Manchester Courier of July 3 1913. This reported that Harry had been reprieved. "Prisoner, known as 'Daft Harry' had lived with his grandfather for 14 years, and on the day in question battered in his head with a hammer. At the Assizes he wanted to plead guilty, but the plea was not accepted." So Harry spent most of the rest of his life in prison. What would have become of him if he committed the same crime in 2013? I wonder?